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Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 40
The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 28 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Statement by Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, dated 19 June 2006, regarding the ongoing massive fires taking place in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, together with satellite images of the situation on the ground (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were urgently distributed as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under item 40, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 28 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 19 June 2006

The aggression by the Republic of Armenia against the Republic of Azerbaijan had a great negative impact on the occupied Azerbaijani territories.

Unfortunately, demands of the Security Council to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all occupying forces from the territories of Azerbaijan remained unfulfilled, and lack of an appropriate reaction encouraged Armenia to continue its illegal actions in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

Attempts by Armenia to consolidate the results of its armed aggression through ruthless exploitation of the natural resources in the occupied territories and transfer of settlers of Armenian ethnicity into those territories of Azerbaijan forced Azerbaijan to bring the issue to the attention of the General Assembly.

The item entitled "The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan" was included in the agenda of the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the General Assembly in order to provide an opportunity to address the occupation and its consequences. The report of the OSCE fact-finding mission to the occupied territories confirmed the concerns of Azerbaijan regarding the settlement of Armenians in those territories and stressed the inadmissibility of changing the demographic situation therein.

Today I would like to bring to the attention of the international community an urgent matter that requires consideration and immediate international action.

We were shocked by the credible information on the incidents of massive fires taking place in the eastern part of the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, particularly the mountainous and plain terrain used for agricultural and living purposes in the Agdam and Khojavend districts, seized by Armenians.

We obtained satellite imagery of those districts, which provide a more detailed picture of these barbaric actions undertaken by the Armenian side.

In that 132.2 square-kilometre area a number of towns, villages, agricultural lands, cultural and historical monuments, flora and fauna, and living dwellings have been destroyed or burned by the fire.

Comparison of satellite images from 2005 and 2006 (see enclosure) shows that these territories in 2005 were completely untouched by fire. This fact proves that these fires have been taking place in the course of 2006.

Analyses of the satellite photos confirm that fires are of a large scale and will have disastrous consequences for the entire ecological system of those occupied territories and the region as a whole.

The whole burned area could be divided into five large parts of almost equal size. More detailed focus demonstrates that these parts are separated from each other by lanes, which remained untouched by the fire. The lanes are clearly seen and

their width of several kilometres proves that the fire could hardly spread from one part to another, bypassing them.

Moreover, fires in the five large parts are localized and separated from each other by roads, channels and other non-burned areas. Thus, it is apparent that simultaneous inflammation in several areas separated from each other and their massive and targeted character gives reasonable grounds to suggest that they are man-made and intentional.

Even if they are nature-caused, Armenia, as the occupying Power, bears full responsibility for suppressing the fires.

By all means, these actions by Armenia constitute a gross violation of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the protocols additional thereto.

I appeal to the whole international community to express a strong, unified position in response to illegal actions of Armenia in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan, such as using destructive flames to make those territories unsuitable for living and cultivating.

The massive fires will cause serious and to a certain extent irreversible damage to the ecological system of those occupied territories. Such acts of vandalism and destruction have to be widely condemned. Adequate response should be taken to suppress the fires and assess the damage inflicted upon the environment in those territories.

Enclosure*

* The original colour images in PDF format can be consulted on ODS.

Republic of Azerbaijan

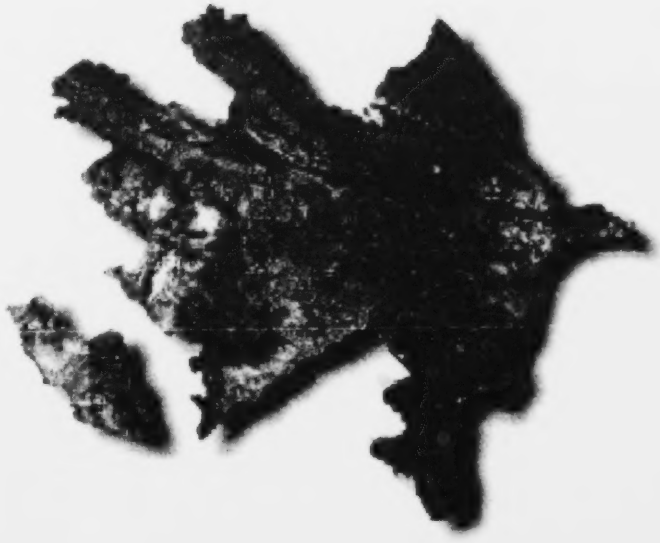
ATLAS

SPACE IMAGES

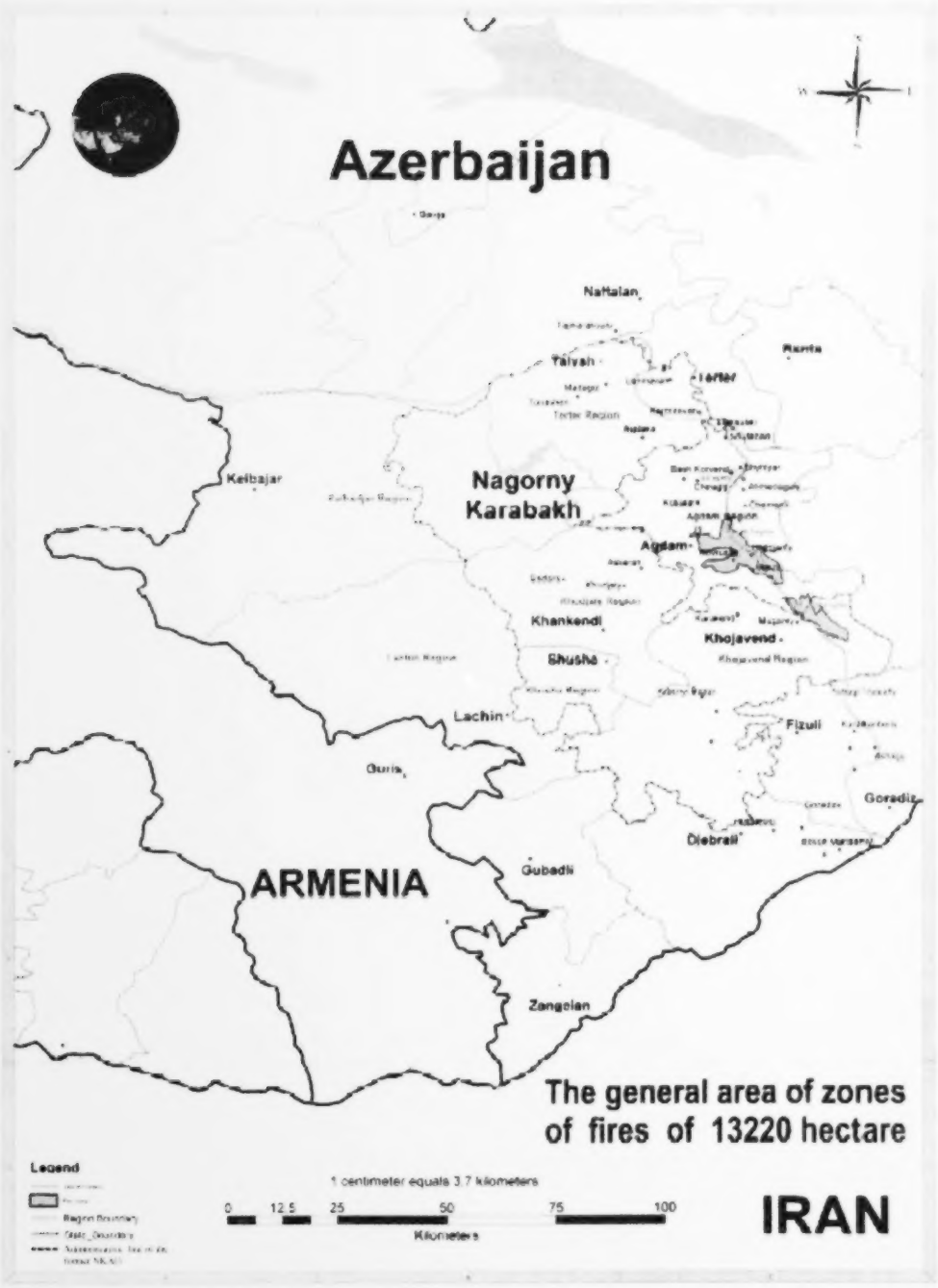
16/06/2006

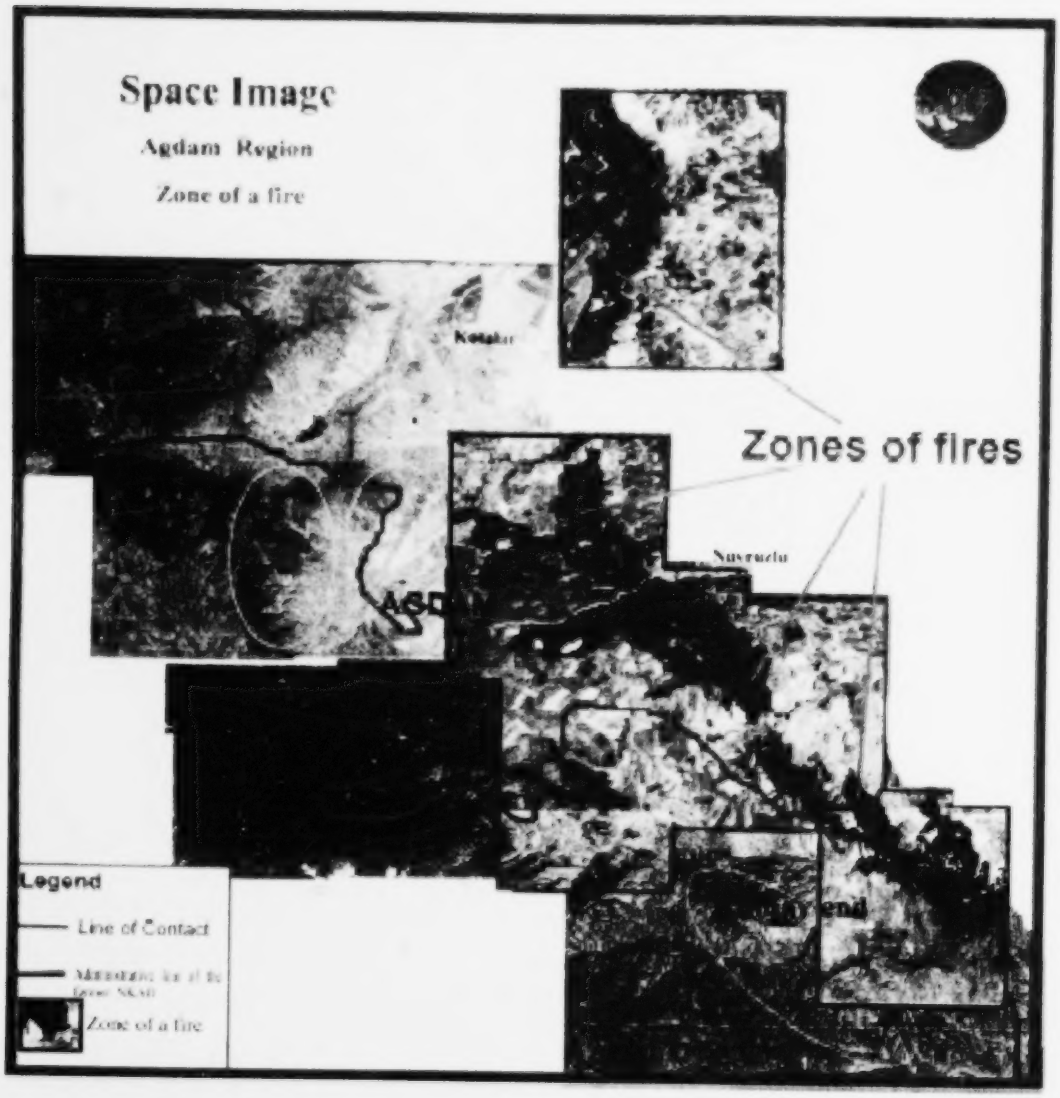
Region of Nagorny Karabakh

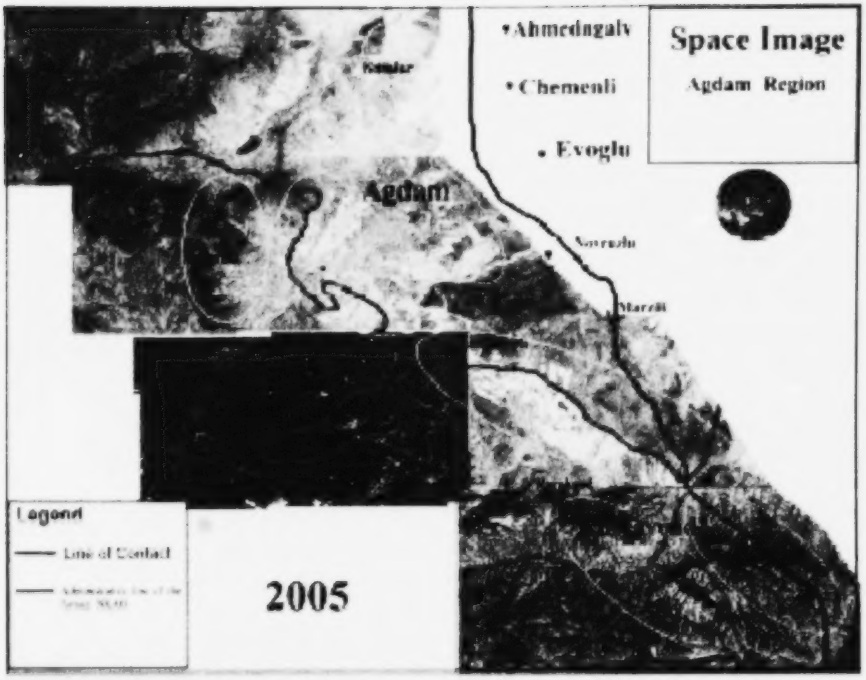
Zones of fires

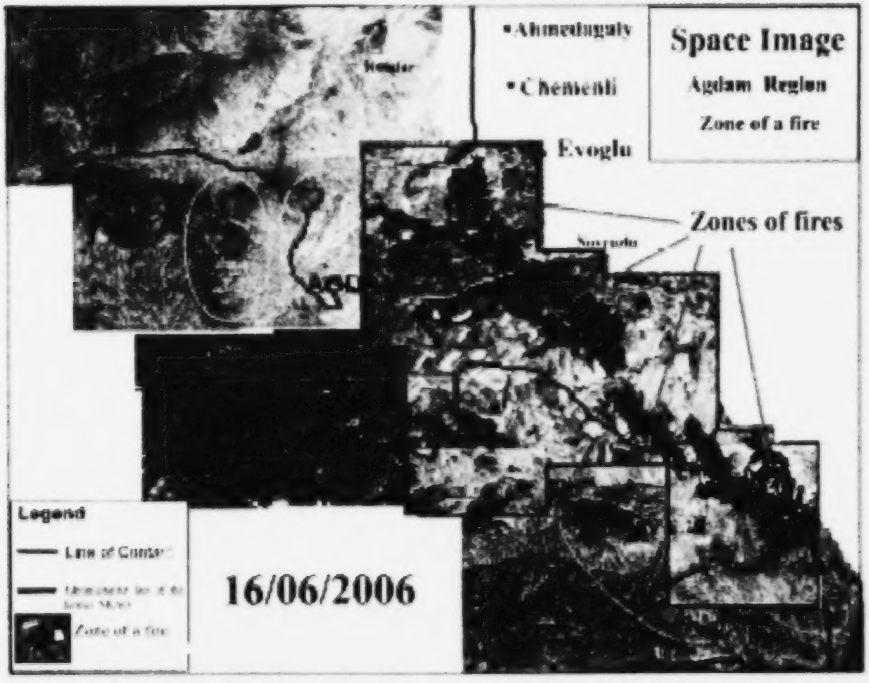


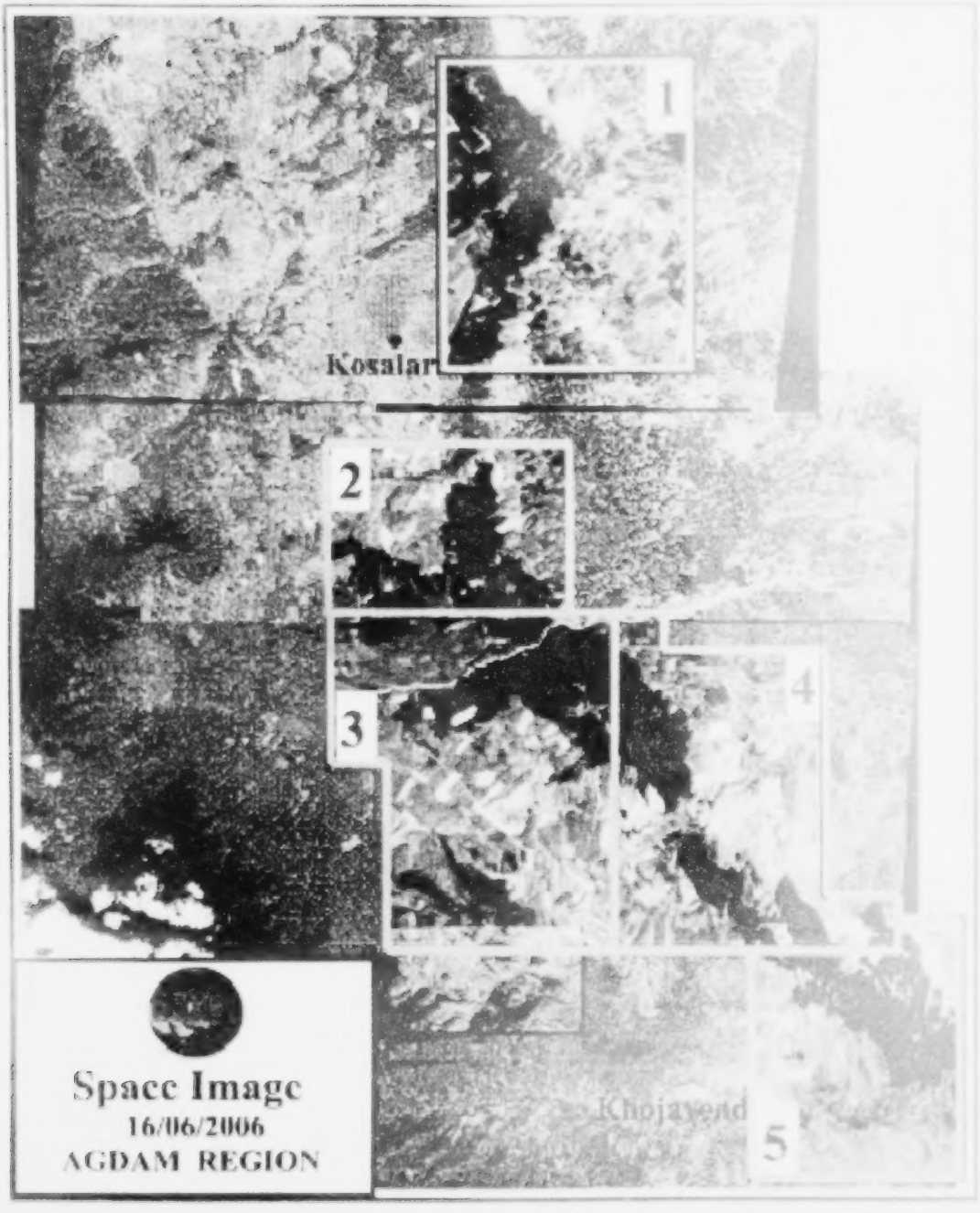
Azerbaijan
Nakhichevan
Tovuz
Terter
Kelbajar
Nagorny Karabakh
Khankendi
Lachin
Fizuli
Goradiz
Dzebrail
Gubadli
Zangelan
ARMENIA
IRAN
Legend
1 centimeter equals 3.7 kilometers
0 12.5 25 50 75 100
Kilometers


Azerbaijan
Nakhalan
Talysh
Tartar
Tartar Region
Kelbajar
Nagorny
Karabakh
Agdam
Khankendi
Khojavend
Shusha
Lachin
Fizuli
Goradiz
Qubadli
Zangelan
ARMENIA
The general area of zones
of fires of 13220 hectare
Legend
1 centimeter equals 3.7 kilometers
0 12.5 25 50 75 100
Kilometers
IRAN

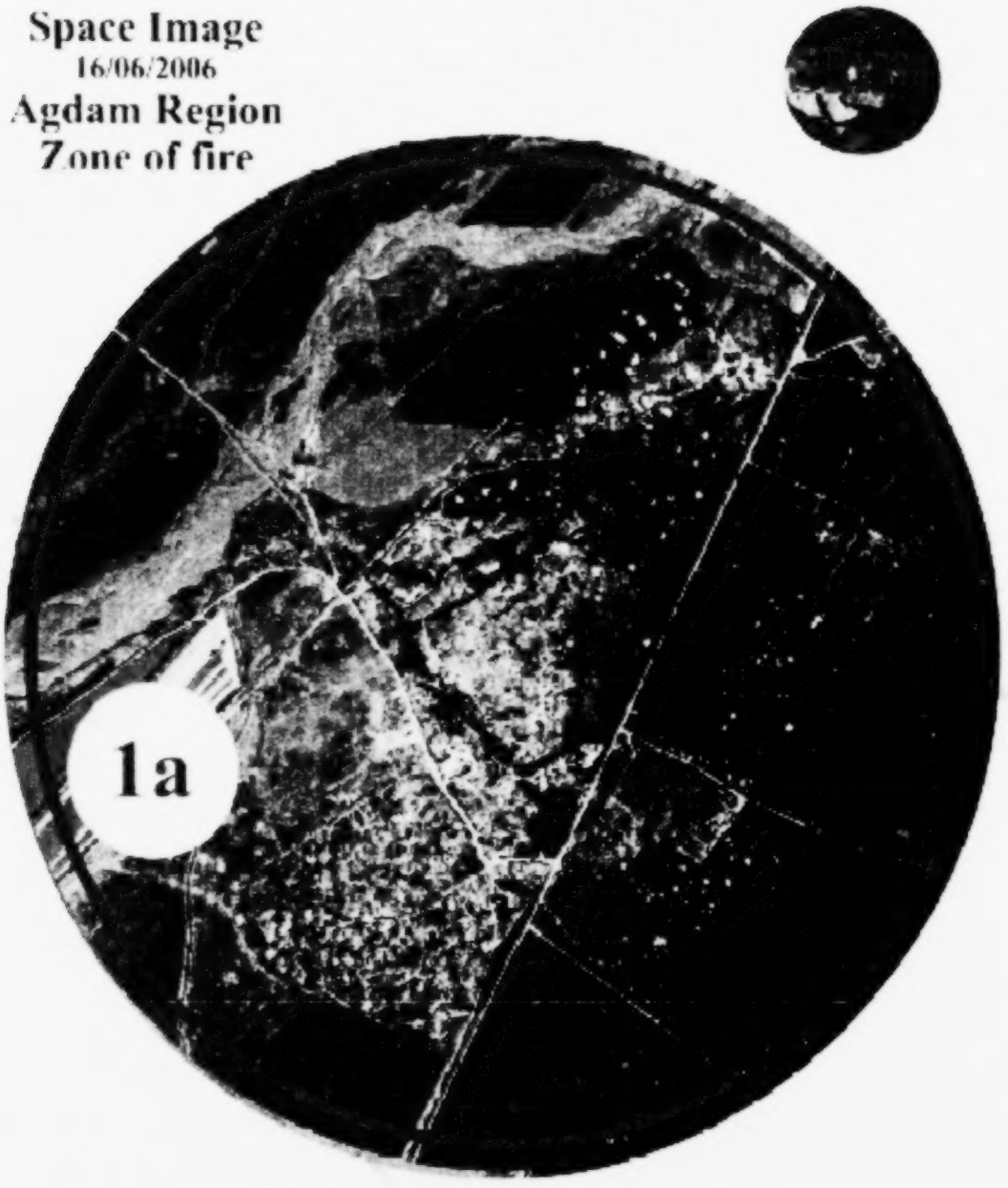

Space Image
Agdam Region
Zone of a fire
Zones of fires
Legend
Line of Contact
Zone of a fire

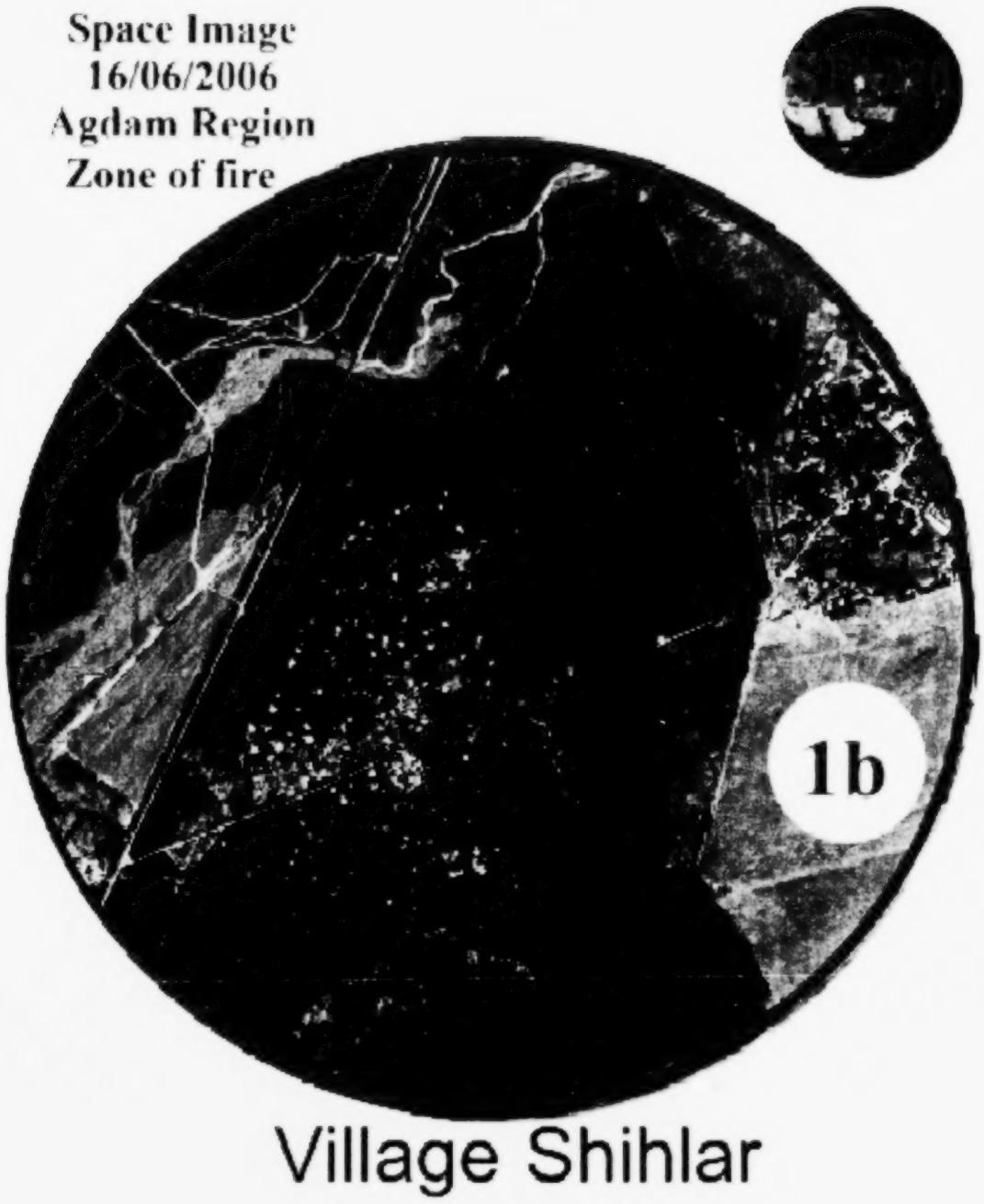

•Ahmedagaly
• Chemenli
• Evoglu
Space Image
Agdam Region
Agdam
Legend
2005

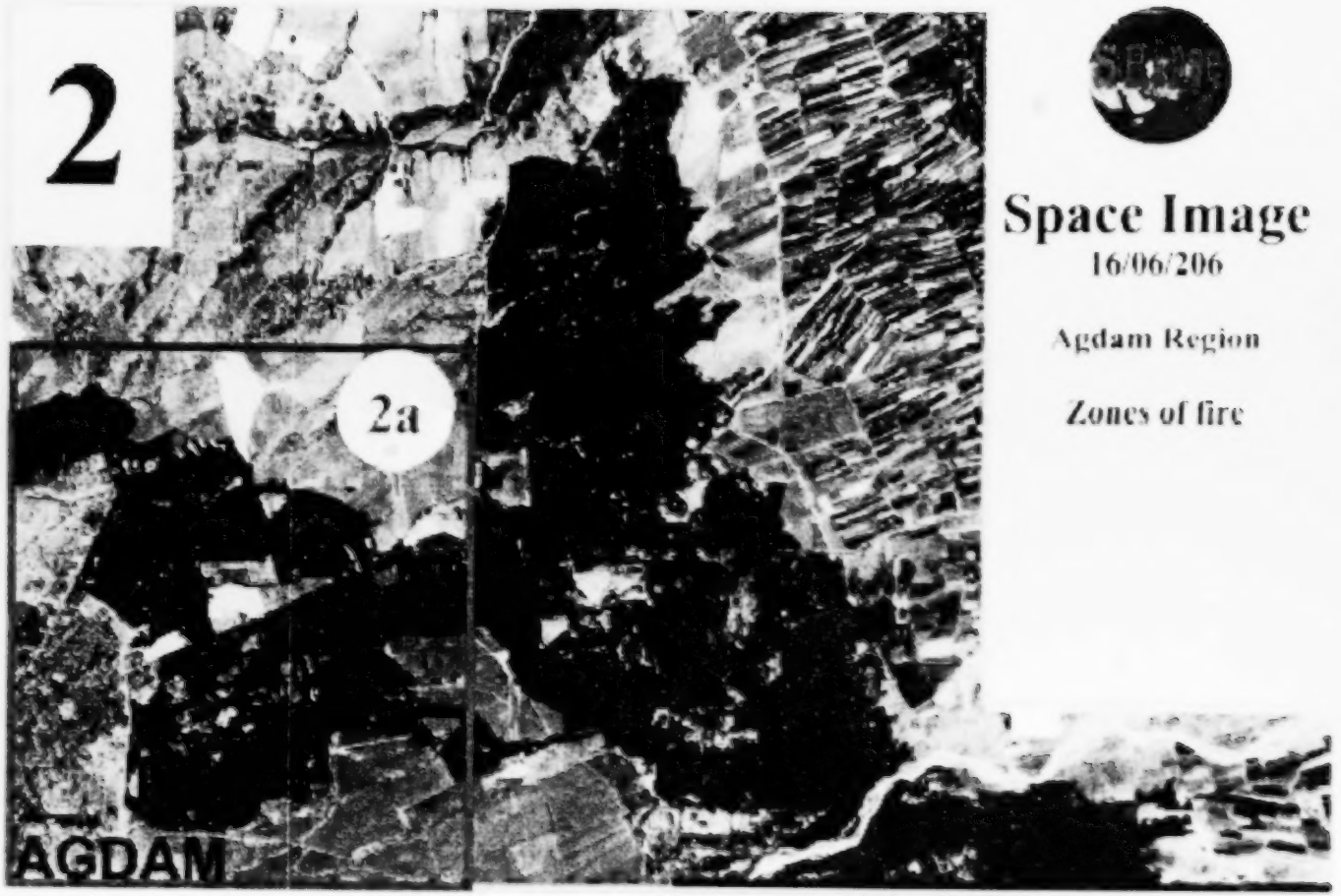

•Ahmedagaly
• Chemenli
Evoglu
Space Image
Agdam Region
Zone of a fire
Zones of fires
Legend
16/06/2006


1
Kosalar
2
3
4
Khojavend
5
Space Image
16/06/2006
AGDAM REGION

1
Shihla
1b
1a

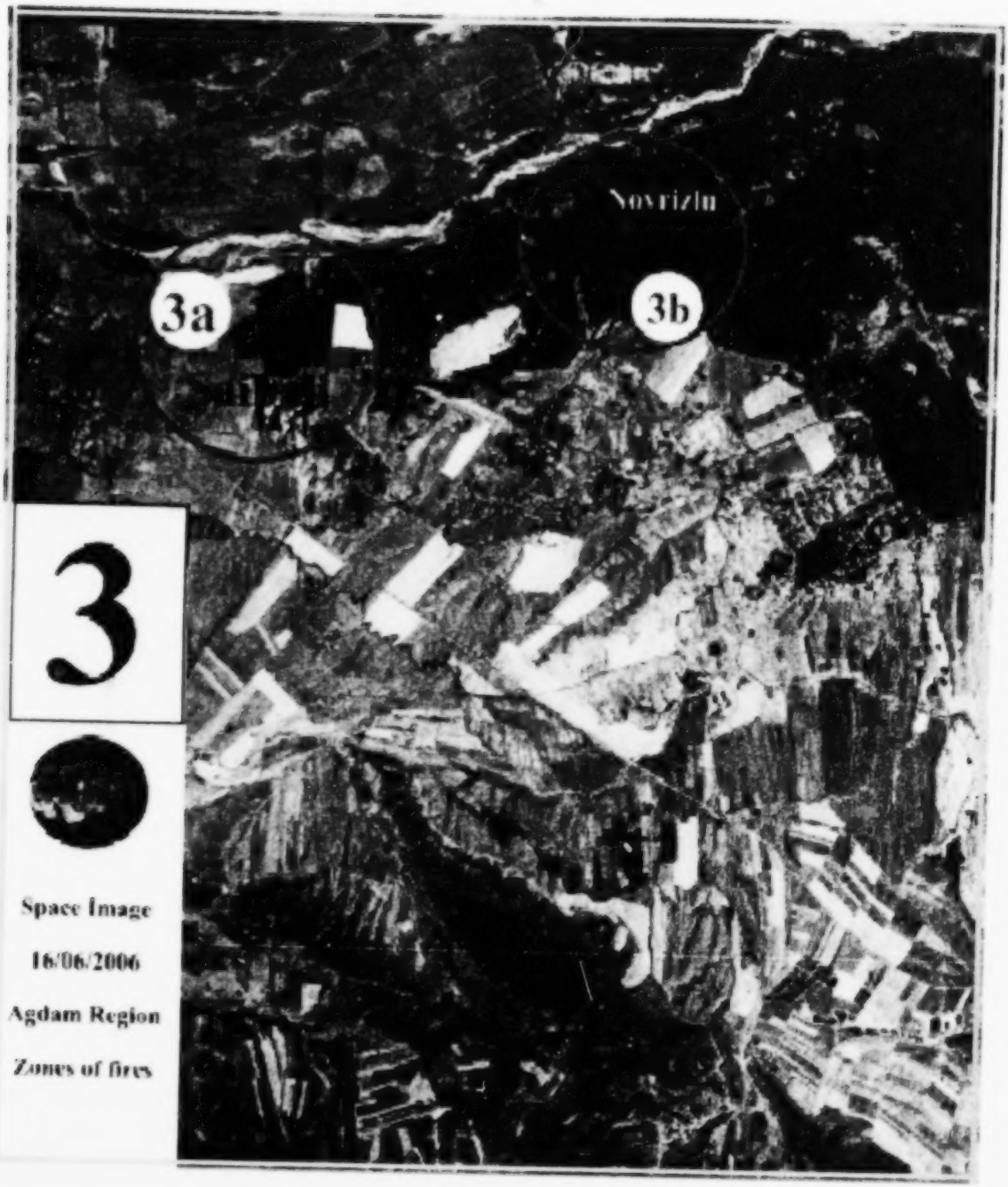

Space Image
16/06/2006
Agdam Region
Zone of fire
1a
Village Javagirli


Space Image
16/06/2006
Agdam Region
Zone of fire
1b
Village Shihlar

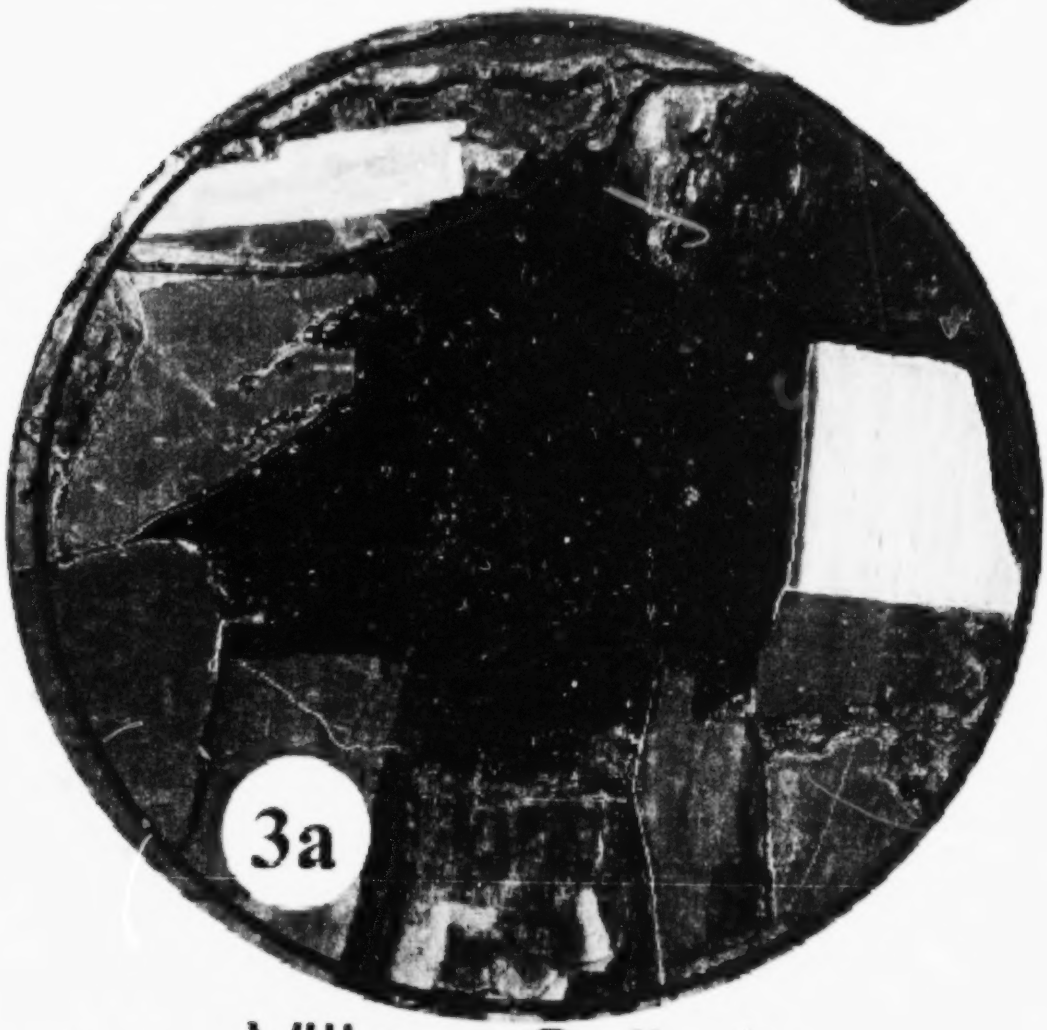

2
2a
AGDAM
Space Image
16/06/206
Agdam Region
Zones of fire

Space Image. 16/06/2006. Agdam Region.
Zone of fire

The city of Agdam


Novrizin
3a
3b
3
Space Image
16/06/2006
Agdam Region
Zones of fires

Space Image. 16/06/2006.
Agdam Region. Zone of fire.



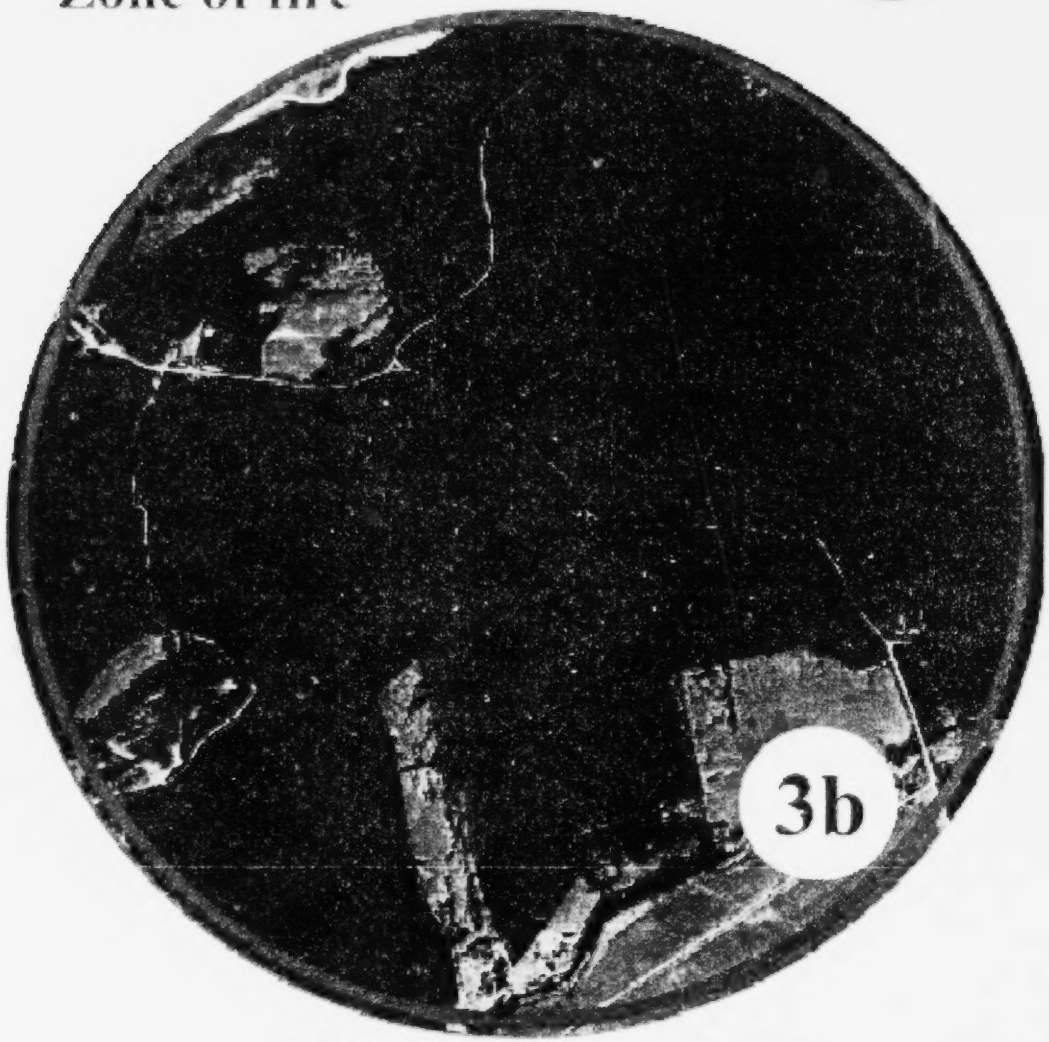
Village Sajbaly

Space Image.

16/06/2006

Agdam Region

Zone of fire



Village Novrizli

Space Image

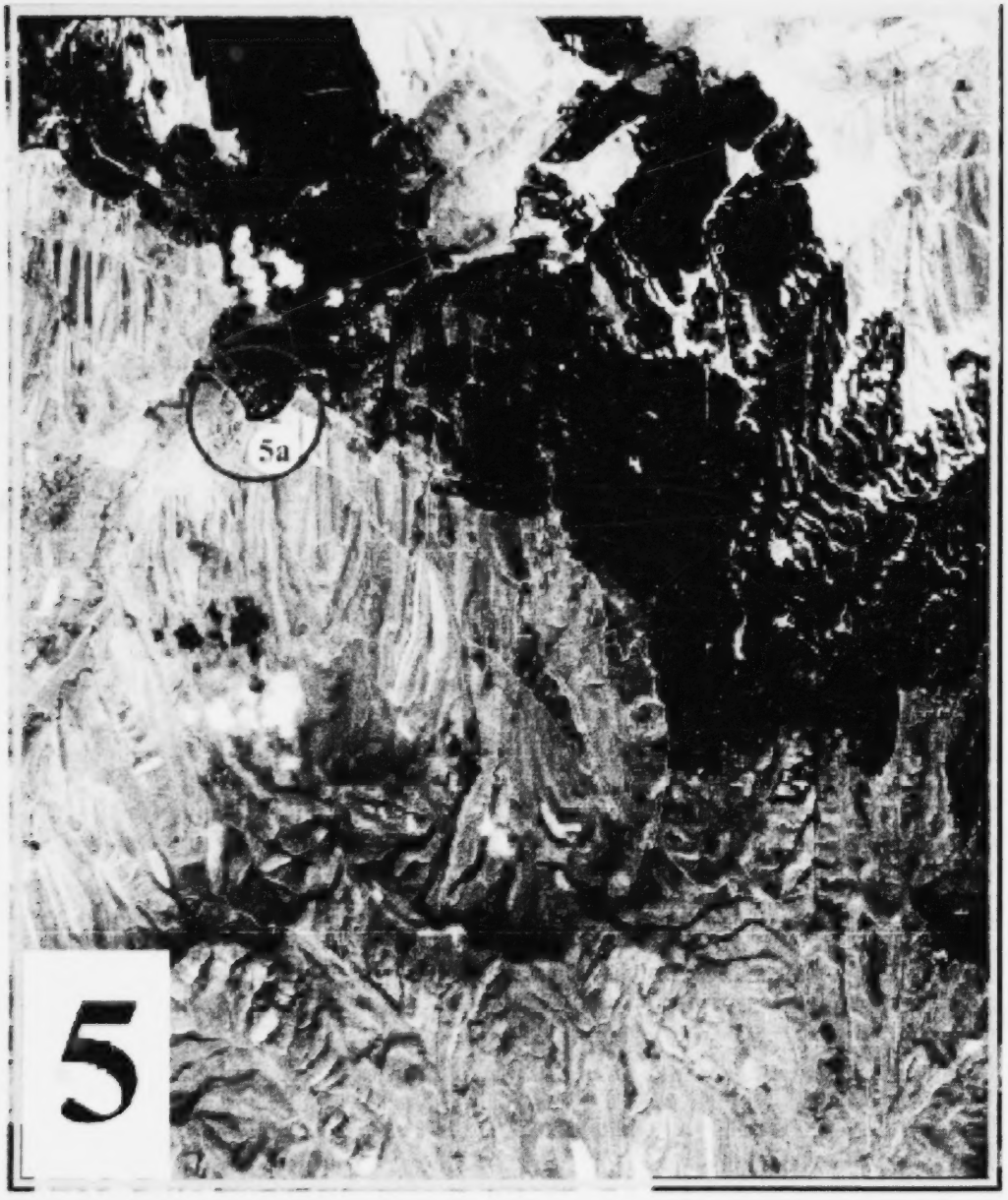
16/06/2006

4

Agdam Region

Zones of fires

Khojavend Region. 16/06/2006
Zones of fires



Khojavend Region